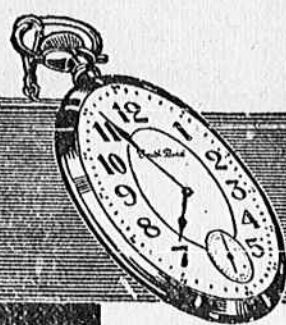


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STATE CANDIDATES IN LEXINGTON

Clinkscapes Charged with Having Unpracticable Plan in Statewide Prohibition.

Lexington, July 9.—Lexington people heard the candidates for governor here today discuss compulsory education and law enforcement, and, like other audiences in South Carolina, cheering these sentiments, and particularly the scoring of the indiscriminate use of the pardoning power. More flowers appeared here today than at any previous campaign, a majority of the candidates being given bouquets.

Lexington is the home of Frank W. Shealy, a candidate for railroad commissioner, and the crowd of 500 men and ladies gave him a royal reception. He did not make a speech, but making the welkin ring with cheers for him and he was showered with several bouquets of beautiful flowers, gave way to his opponents, his friends Banners announcing Shealy as "Lexington's choice for railroad commissioner" appeared in several places.

The audience was impartial in its reception of the gubernatorial and other candidates, cheering Mr. Richards when he argued against compulsory education and vigorously applauded R. A. Cooper in his forceful presentation of the need for enforcement of the laws, as they did Mendel L. Smith and R. I. Manning, when they warned against paralyzing the verdicts of courts and juries by wholesale abuse of the pardoning power.

Mr. Manning asked Mr. Clinkscapes to specify how compulsory education of a statewide nature would work and proposed a county local option compulsory law as the remedy.

Comptroller General A. W. Jones bitterly arraigned his opponent, James A. Summersett, for his action in the reinsurance of the State's risks last spring, charging that in dual capacity of State officer and representative of fire insurance companies, he made a contract for insuring the State against while a regent, and divided the insurance among local Columbia agents, getting his share. He excoriated what he claims was the fight the insurance agents made in the way of a law to be passed by the legislature preventing a fire insurance company from writing any "overhead" insurance or otherwise than through a local agent. "Hear me, fellow citizens," said Jones "some of the local agents of Columbia have put forward as their representative James A. Summersett, an ex-member of the pardon board. This, too, with the parole of 'Portland Ned' fresh and green in their memories." Of his opponent he said further: "Certain fire insurance agents of Columbia have endorsed (by hundreds of letters and much printed matter) this 'sovereign' perpetually rotating, coat-tail swinging politician, who appropriately dubs himself a 'razor-back' from North Carolina, for the business office of the people."

The people of Lexington gave everyone a cordial greeting, Mr. D. B. Halli-wanger entertaining the newspaper men at dinner.

County Chairman George Bell Timmerman called the meeting together at 12:30 under the shade of the trees on the court house lawn. The Rev. J. P. Inabinet, pastor of the Methodist church, offered prayer. Candidates for lieutenant governor, B. Frank Kelley, A. J. Bethea, W. M. Hamer and J. A. Hunter, led off.

Attorney General Thomas H. Peoples said Mr. Brice voted against a bill to lower the rate of interest, voted against a motion to strike out enacting words of a bill providing for compulsory education and against a bill providing free text books for poor white children. He was cheered and presented with flowers.

A. G. Brice, for attorney general, said it was a mere question of oversight which caused him to introduce a bill to abolish a constitutional office, and that he voted to keep interest at the present rate. He again charged that Mr. Peoples was only a tool of the governor and had been an unfaithful servant.

James A. Summersett, for Comptroller general, attacked Mr. Jones for his connection with a bonding company. Comptroller General A. W. Jones bitterly arraigned his opponent, Mr. Summersett, for his part as a regent of the State asylum in the reinsurance squabble last spring.

Adj. Gen. W. W. Moore and M. C. Willis, his opponent, came next.

Chairman Timmerman read a letter from James Cansler, who is detained by sickness in Columbia. C. D. Fortner led off for railroad commissioner, being followed by Frank W. Shealy, of this county. He made a few remarks of appreciation and then gave way to the others. Mr. Shealy was given a rousing reception and given several bouquets of flowers. He was followed by J. H. Wharton, W. I. Witherspoon and Geo. W. Fairley.

It was 12:30 when the candidates for governor began to speak. J. B. A.

Mullally was absent on account of sickness. Mr. Timmerman read part of Mr. Mullally's platform.

John G. Richards opposed compulsory education. It is repulsive to Anglo-Saxon sensibilities, he stated. He attacked the recent State convention in its adoption of the personal enrollment requirement of voters to enroll. His denunciation of the charge, he said, that was being made that he was a "coat-tail swinger," and that he would vote for Governor Bleasdale for the United States Senate, drew some cheering and shouts of "Hurrah for Bleasdale! Hurrah for Bleasdale!" mingled with a few shouts of "Hurrah for Smith!" Other ejaculations of "You look like Coley; you are all right," greeted Mr. Richards as he concluded. He was presented with flowers.

Charles Carroll Simms, referring to the talks of the other candidates as "sanctified," said from listening to his opponents' talks he felt like he was the only human being in the race and the people ought to elect a human being as governor. He attacked a newspaper for fighting him. He said he had done more for the farmers than all the other candidates, in that he had established before the supreme court of the United States that a farmer could not be put into bankruptcy.

Chas. A. Smith asked promotion to the office of governor on his record as lieutenant governor. He praised Congressman Lever and the people of Lexington. He advocated a referendum on State-wide prohibition, and urged the enforcement of law. Lieutenant Governor Smith said prohibition was a burning issue and a question which must be met before law and order can be properly enforced.

"The time has not come for compulsory education," he said. He was presented with flowers and applauded.

Mendel L. Smith said this was no time for cheap politics in South Carolina and excoriated democracy and "schemes and plans of artful politicians."

Mr. Smith advocated local option compulsory education with school districts as the unit and "if you force a general compulsory education law on the people you will bankrupt five hundred school districts," declared the speaker. He said if the general compulsory system were put on people it would raise the tax levy in one county 12 mills, and argued for the local option system.

"That's what we want, Smith," said several of the audience when Mr. Smith promised to carry out the verdicts of the courts and juries and not use the pardoning power indiscriminately. This statement drew considerable applause. Two little girls presented Mr. Smith with flowers and he showed his appreciation by kissing them both.

Lowndes J. Browning praised the Lexington barbeque chicken but said here. He told a joke on Prof. Clinkscapes which drew a laugh from the crowd. He discussed rural credit, readjustment of tax assessments.

He said the people did not need compulsory education; what they need is more facilities and more money to run the schools. He said compulsory education would increase taxation \$1,444,000 and not a single additional school building would be erected.

"He rolls round on flowery beds of ease," said the speaker of Mr. Clinkscapes.

John G. Clinkscapes pleaded for a State-wide compulsory education law, citing instances where white parents kept their children out of school. He spoke of the 10,000 children out of schools. He asked his opponents to show that it would bankrupt the state to educate the children, and said if the legislature could appropriate \$20,000 to eradicate the cattle tick, "can't they appropriate money to educate these 10,000 white children?" He said Marion, Calhoun, Saluda and other counties could accommodate all the white children. He was presented with flowers.

R. A. Cooper stressed the great power in the hands of the governor and the necessity of selecting the governor. "I had to educate myself; I lived out in the sticks, where we learn something of difficulties," said Mr. Cooper, in a strong plea for increased educational facilities for the rural schools.

"It would be a mistaken policy to put the cart before the horse and compel children to go to school when there is nowhere to go," said the speaker, saying what was needed was to build more school houses before enacting a compulsory education law. He urged the people to prepare for the coming of the boll weevil. Mr. Cooper emphasized the crying need of law enforcement.

A little girl presented Mr. Cooper with flowers from the "R. A. Cooper Club." He was liberally applauded.

John T. Duncan said none of his opponents had presented a single idea of modern government; that they were showing each other around on their own platforms, while any little 10-year-old boy would say "me too" to. "There is not a one who looks beyond the end of his nose," declared Mr. Duncan.

"One fool at a time, your turn next," said Mr. Duncan to one in the crowd who kept yelling "Hurrah for Bleasdale," effectively squelching the disturber, while the crowd laughed. He attacked B. Frank Kelley and M. L. Smith and attacked what he calls the "system."

W. C. Irby, Jr., told of his fight to sustain the veto of the governor on the sale of asylum land in Columbia. He took a rap at Senator Sharpe, of Lexington, for opposing the two-cent rate bill, and attacked cotton mill mergers and Northern commission men and advocated a corporation commission.

Richard I. Manning closed the speaking. Said he was glad to have helped in electing Congressman Lever the first time. Mr. Manning asked Mr. (Continued on Third Page.)

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